(b) to (d) The Central Government has issued detailed guidelines under FC Act, on 18th September 1990, for settlement of rights of forest dwellers including tribal which include, regularization of pre-1980 eligible encroachments, conversion of forest villages into revenue villages, and settlement of disputed claims of tribals like pattas, leases and grants etc. Since the provisions already exist in Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the guidelines, for settlement of rights of forest dwellers, there is no need to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Task force for waste lands

†1995. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any task force for producing greeneries in existing ravines of the country;

(b) if so, the details of action plan for providing water and conservation of land there;

(c) whether his Ministry has consulted with the Ministry of Home Affairs to carry out this work; and

(d) the details of existing revine lands in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A National Level Task Force for Rehabilitation of Ravinous Lands has been constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The Task Force consists of seven members and the term of the Task Force is two years. The Task Force will be engaged in planning, monitoring and evaluation of rehabilitation work in ravinous areas and also recommend the project proposals to the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB).

(c) and (d) Since the issue is related to land degradation, Ministry of Rural Development was consulted. The details of existing revinous lands in the country, State-wise is given in the Statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

State-wise Details of existing ravine lands in the country

Sl. No.	State	Ravine Lands (in lakh Hectares)
1.	Uttar Pradesh	12.30
2.	Madhya Pradesh	6.83
3.	Rajasthan	4.52
4.	Gujarat	4.00
5.	Bihar	6.00
6.	Maharashtra	0.20
7.	Orissa	1.13
8.	Punjab & Haryana	1.20
9.	Tamil Nadu	0.60
10.	West Bengal	1.04
11.	Himalyas Foothills	1.93
	TOTAL :	39.75

Death of people due to air pollution

†1996. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that more than fifty thousand persons lose their lives due to air pollution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No conclusive data is available to establish co-relationship between the mortality and air pollution. The Government has adopted strategies for control of air pollution which include comprehensive policy for abatement of pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel including CNG, tightening of vehicular and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.